

Behaviors and Symptoms of the Autism Spectrum

Autism is a disorder that ranges from mild to severe and it affects different children in different ways. Boys are much more likely than girls to be diagnosed.

Some children with autism may be developing normally before age 1 or 2 and then suddenly lose their language or social skills. Signs of autism include:

Early Indicators

Your infant may fail to respond to his or her name, point, reach or seem curious about their immediate surroundings or the world. Delayed babbling, speaking and gesturing by 12 months are common.

Communication Difficulties

A smile or wave and other social cues may have little meaning for your child. The ability to understand another person's feelings, thoughts or body language may be limited. Talking may be in monotone or limited. Your child may repeat words and phrases.

Unusual Behaviors

Common behaviors include hand-flapping, rocking, jumping and twirling, arranging and rearranging objects, and repeating sounds, words, or phrases.

Social Challenges

Your child may not look you in the eye when you speak to him or her. He or she may prefer to be alone, become easily upset or avoid physical contact. Understanding feelings may be limited and interests may be few or obsessive.



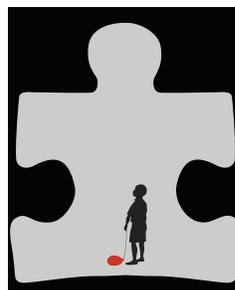
Sensitivities to Surroundings

Your son or daughter may react in an unusual manner to how things appear, smell, taste, sound or touch. Anxieties may be extreme and meltdowns common.

For More Information

To learn more, there is an online screening tool for autism in toddlers at www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/diagnosis/mchat

If you ever suspect something is wrong with your son or daughter, don't hesitate to seek help. Always discuss any health concerns with your child's doctor.



There is no known cure for autism, but early intervention can make a difference.